

THE AGAWAM

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Agawam's Hometown Newspaper

December 13, 1979

School Committee Moves To Override Health Department

By Joanne Brown

At last Tuesday's meeting, the Agawam School Committee unanimously authorized Acting Superintendent of Schools James Bruno to pursue legal action allowing them to override the authority of the Health Department should that agency continue to disregard requests to hire additional nurses to control the problem of head lice in our schools.

Tom O'Keefe, principal at Clark School where the problem in town is most critical, reported to the committee that he has repeatedly requested from Health Director Ron Young a team of 8 fulltime nurses be assigned to his school on a dependable, daily basis. To date, this request has not materialized.

"We now have two town nurses, two substitute town nurses, one regular school nurse, and two volunteers," reported O'Keefe. "When school opens at 8 o'clock, these nurses are on duty, but as the day progresses, several of them, especially the volunteers, must leave due to prior commitments. By the close of school, we're down to three nurses and many children still left to examine."

O'Keefe explained that so many nurses are needed because daily head checks are still being performed on each child as he enters school. According to him, without a full team of nurses, many of the students remain all day before getting checked, and, therefore, do not get into a classroom where instruction has once again begun to take place.

Acting Superintendent Bruno explained to the committee that he has sent several memoranda to Young clearly outlining his request that school nurses be reassigned to their own schools and that additional nurses be hired to work at Clark.

He provided them with copies of his correspondence with Young and strongly emphasized the necessity of having a full team of nurses at Clark School on a dependable, fulltime basis, not only to check heads, but also to make home visits and to assist parents.

Committee Advocates Legal Action To Take Over

Complaining openly that the Board of Health has been derelict in its duties, the School Committee members urged Bruno to act immediately to seek legal recourse in taking control of the situation. Members Walter Balboni and Tom Ennis were most vocal in advising him to move quickly and "worry about the consequences later."

Balboni remarked, "It is imperative to get things under control before Christmas vacation or else we may have chaos when school reopens on January 2."

Latest statistics reflect progress being made at Clark School. From a high point last Friday (Dec. 7th) of 238 students absent, 156 present with 14 repeat cases sent home, O'Keefe reported that on Tuesday (Dec. 11th) there were 108 absent, 286 present, and 11 repeats and one new case sent home.

Bruno reported that only three students were sent home from the remainder of the elementary schools in town and six from the Middle School.

Members of the committee gave Bruno full authorization to confer with Attorney John Teahan to take immediately whatever legal action can be pursued to rectify the shortage of nurses. Chairman Richard Borgatti charged Bruno with notifying the chairperson of the Board of Health Mrs. Jane Nunn and Town Manager Peter Caputo of their proposed action and then to proceed as swiftly as possible.

Additional Nurses Finally Supplied

A check with Bruno on the morning following the School Committee meeting disclosed that Clark School had been provided with 8 nurses and that one additional nurse had been hired for Phelps for the duration of the crisis. Bruno reported that the Health Director had stated 8 nurses would be assigned on a fulltime basis to Clark until the situation is cleared up.

Preliminary research into legal action on the part of the School Committee should conditions regress is still scheduled to proceed.

Editorial Comment.....

Council Urged To Draft Connelly

by Pat Guevin, Editor

Since 1972 when the town manager form of government came into existence in Agawam, there have been forces at work to discredit the government the people had chosen. Unfortunately, the toll to date - two town managers - has done nothing to enhance Agawam's image in the eyes of neighboring communities.



All of the clamor and commotion has had a very unsettling effect upon Agawam and her people. The last election proved that the majority of people want to keep the present form of government. Now begins the search for a new town manager.

The Town Council will advertise the position in all of the trade journals and various other publications. Given our history of cruel and abusive treatment to town managers we must wonder aloud if our reputation will precede us and scare off any suitable out-of-town applicants.

This concern can easily be eliminated, and Agawam's Town Council has only to look in its own backyard. State Representative Edward Connelly, a thoroughly knowledgeable and widely respected Agawam citizen would bring to Town Hall the strong leadership we so sorely need.

Connelly's qualifications certainly do not need to be expounded upon. We feel he would bring a cohesiveness to Agawam's fragmented populace - a feat an outsider might find difficult at the very least. Connelly has proven his leadership abilities - both in Agawam town government and the State Legislature, time and again. Agawam needs a leader.

Though Mr. Connelly will not comment at the present time, we believe that he would respond positively to a responsible effort to draft him for the manager's position. We urge all members of the Town Council to seriously consider a "draft Connelly" movement in the best interests our good town and its good people.

Caba Selected Interim Manager - Caputo Resignation Accepted

by Ric Sardella

Town Clerk Edward Caba was named interim town manager by a 12-0 vote of the Town Council Monday. Caba's appointment, effective January 5, 1980, came after the Council accepted the resignation of Peter Caputo by a 12-1 count.

The motion to appoint Caba as the interim manager, forwarded by outgoing councilor John McNamara, will provide Caba with the same salary and benefits currently being paid to Caputo.

The Council agreed to provide the clerk's office with additional personnel at Caba's request. The Council also agreed to allow Caba to supervise the Precinct One election early next year and to oversee the March 4th presidential primary.

Caba, who served as the interim manager prior to the selection of Caputo in February, 1978, said he was delighted that the Council has again shown faith in his abilities to direct town hall while the Council searches for a Caputo replacement.

Asked by Council President Richard Theroux if he would again be a candidate for the manager's position of a fulltime basis, Caba said he had no comment at this time. "All I want from the Council is the same cooperation as before," he said.

The acceptance of Caputo's resignation, a situation that has swollen into a sea of controversy, came without discussion for the 13 Councilors present. Councilor Donald Ladizinski, Caputo's staunchest supporter throughout the manager's stormy two year tenure, was the lone legislator voting not to accept the resignation.

Last week, after Nantucket selectmen held a press conference announcing that Caputo was the town's chief of police, the manager handed his resignation to the Council.

continued on page 10

State To Decide Chief Status

In a dramatic decision handed down by a Hampden County Superior Judge, the position of police chief has been placed in a precarious position.

Judge William Simons ruled that the position of police chief be placed under Civil Service, overturning a 1976 council decision.

After being held up in court for several months, the case, filed by soon-to-be councilor, Walter Kerr, received a ruling upholding a 1977 townwide election to keep the chiefs position in Civil Service.

At the time, the Agawam town council ruled the special election was non-binding due to the small percentage of actual voter turn out. Also a sentence placed on the ballot by the council proclaimed the referendum to be a non-binding question.

Due to the controversy surrounding the council decision, the results were sent to the Statehouse. They were returned to Agawam with an explanation from then Statehouse Counsel William Denver. Denver instructed the council that the referendum would have to be voted on by them before it could be acted upon by the Legislature.

The council took no further action on the matter which prompted Kerr to file suit.

Kerr had been instrumental in petitioning the town for the controversial 1977 special election after a 10-4 council vote which removed the position of chief from Civil Service.

Kerr believes that under home rule laws, the council did not have the authority to overrule the results of a townwide election.

If the Legislature votes to place the position of chief under Civil Service, Chmielewski will have to comply to the state's hiring system to retain his job.

Chmielewski was not available for comment.

See 1979-80
Winter Sports Schedule
page 16

SCHOOL NEWS

AGAWAM SCHOOL LUNCH MENUS

Monday, Dec. 17: Pizza w/cheese topping, tossed garden salad w/shredded carrots and dressing, chilled peaches in syrup, milk
Tuesday, Dec. 18: Baked hamburger and macaroni in tomato sauce, garlic bread & butter, creamy cole slaw, pineapple chunks in syrup, milk
Wednesday, Dec. 19: Cold cut grinder w/cheese & lettuce, buttered green beans, apple crisp, milk
Thursday, Dec. 20: Oven roasted turkey w/gravy, whipped potatoes, buttered peas & carrots, cranberry sauce, dinner roll w/butter, ice cream, milk
Friday, Dec. 21: Steamed frankfort in roll, oven French fries, carrot sticks, chocolate cake w/icing, milk

SOUTHWICK SCHOOL LUNCH MENUS

Monday, Dec. 17: Ham and cheese on wheat bread w/lettuce, French fries, chilled applesauce, milk
Tuesday, Dec. 18: Hambu?ger on bun, pickle chips, cheese cubes, buttered corn, chilled peaches, milk
Wednesday, Dec. 19: Ravioli w/meat sauce, grated cheese, buttered green beans, pudding w/topping, bread & butter, milk
Thursday, Dec. 20: Christmas dinner
Friday, Dec. 21: Golden fried fish, tartar sauce, hot buttered vegetables, chilled pineapple, bread & butter, milk

Marines And Zayre's Collect Toys For Tots

The U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and the Zayre department store on Springfield Street in Agawam have joined forces once again to brighten the holidays for thousands of needy children by collecting Toys For Tots, according to Mr. Schuster, Zayre manager.

Schuster's store is one of the nearly 260 Zayre stores participating in Toys For Tots, marking the second year of one of the largest supportive commitments ever made by a retailer to the 31 year old program. Last year the Marine Corps Reserve collected 350,000 toys through Zayre stores alone.

Between November 19th and December 19th, a colorful receptacle will be on display at the front of the store near the Customer Service Center. All contributions of new or almost new toys and children's clothing will be welcome. The Marine Corps Reserve will pick up the toys and distribute them through various local service agencies such as hospitals.

Since its inception in California in 1947, Toys For Tots has become a holiday tradition. Over the years, millions of toys have been collected and distributed by local Marine Corps Reserve units.

"The holidays should be festive for everyone, including underprivileged kids," Schuster remarked. "We hope that thousands of concerned people from the Agawam area will show that they've really got the holiday spirit by contributing to Toys For Tots, either at our store or another official collection point."

Youth Activities Curtailed Throughout Town

In an effort to aid in controlling the problem of head lice among children throughout Agawam, various youth groups and organizations have voluntarily curtailed all activities temporarily.

Parks and Recreation Director Jack Kunasek reports that all youth programs sponsored by his department have been cancelled until after the new year, including swimming, gymnastics, and baton. He emphasized, though, that adult open gym and adult men's basketball programs will continue.

The Agawam Public Library has cancelled their films scheduled to be shown on Saturdays throughout December and all other youth programs.

Agawam Athletic Association President Jerry Mason announced his organization has complied with the request and cancelled all programs temporarily.

Religious instruction classes at various churches in town, as well as scouting meetings and several Christmas parties have also been called off.

Major emphasis has been placed on the parents responsibility to keep their children home should they be found to have head lice.

Acting Superintendent of Schools James Bruno reported that parents may conscientiously wash their children's hair and sanitize their houses, but will then take the children shopping or allow them to play outside and thereby spread the condition.

Bruno strongly requests that parents not allow infested children out at all until they have been checked and found clean.

Praising the nurses in town for a superior job done thus far, Bruno stressed that they must have cooperation from parents throughout town if this situation is to be brought under control.

Southwick Association Plans New Year's Eve Event

The Southwick Hockey Association will hold a New Year's Eve dinner dance with music by Freedom. The event will occur at the Southwick Recreation Center, Powder Mill Road.

A buffet dinner, catered by the Purple Onion, will be served at 8 p.m. and dancing will take place from 9 to 2. Coffee and refreshments will be available at the end of the evening. Doors will open at 7 p.m.

Tickets at \$45 per couple may be purchased by contacting Mrs. Rose Granaudo at 569-3700 or Mrs. Carol Rock at 569-3875.

Guidance Bulletin Board

[This column which will appear on a regular basis is being coordinated by and submitted to our newspaper by Paul Cavallo, chairman of the Guidance Departments for schools in Agawam.]

Along with the regular counseling chores that are performed by the high school guidance department, the department is fortunate to have the services of Mr. Joseph Laino, a vocational counselor who specializes in giving students occupational information and career assessment. He works with the guidance staff in an effort to provide complete guidance services to both the college bound and non college bound student. Also, Mr. Laino coordinates many vocational program activities with the Industrial Arts, Work Study, and Distributive Education departments. With the use of the MOIS computer system, Mr. Laino is able to provide up-to-date occupational information in the form of software (monographs, briefs, etc.) and hardware (tapes and film strips).

One of Mr. Laino's major functions is to recruit students for the Westover Occupational Resource Center (WORC) which is scheduled to open in either September, 1980, or January, 1981. At the present, he counsels 40 students who participate in the Lower Pioneer Valley Education Collaborative. We hope to have Mr. Laino's services available to our students during the next school year.

NEW SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

The Women's Division of the Springfield Chamber of Commerce eligibility requirements are an applicant must be a senior who is planning to attend college in the Springfield area and must show financial need and academic ability. The scholarship is for tuition only, and application deadline is February 15, 1980.

COLLEGE BOARD DATA

Senior planning to take the SAT's or achievement tests must send in their applications by December 21, 1979.

A REMINDER-- seniors planning to attend college next year should by this time have submitted at least an application to the college of their choice. Watch out for deadline dates for applications. It is the student's responsibility to bring his completed application and stamped envelope to the Guidance Office for processing.

EMT Course Offered

A basic 81-hour Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) course will be held at Granville Volunteer Fire Department, Granville, Mass. starting on January 3.

The course will run for three months on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. At the completion of the course, the National Registry Exam will be held and all those who pass will be qualified to work on an ambulance.

For more information, call EMT Instructor Skip Rising at 786-0614 or Chief Harlon Hansen at 357-8754.

American Legion Plans New Year's Party

The Wilson-Thompson American Legion Post 185 of Agawam is having a New Year's Party at the post home on Springfield Street in Agawam.

There will be a buffet lunch, dancing, favors, etc. starting at 9 p.m.

All members and guests are invited. Tickets can be picked up at the post home or from the post officers at \$10 per person.



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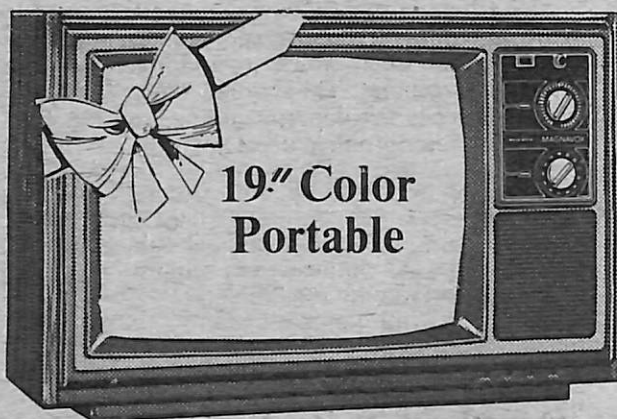
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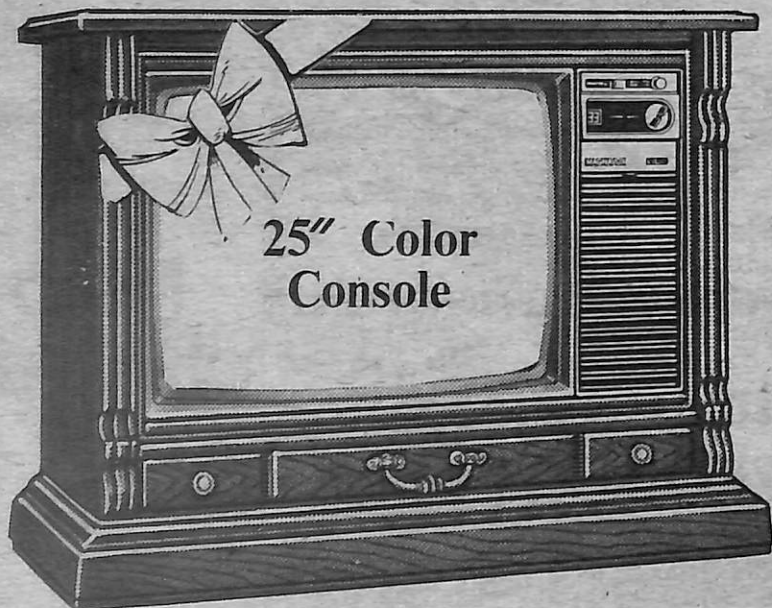
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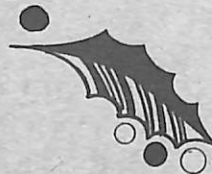
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911 Number Now Available In Agawam

The 911 telephone emergency reporting system has been available to telephone subscribers in the Agawam (786 and 789) exchange since December 1st.

The 911 system enables the caller - just by dialing the three-digit number - to reach quickly a centralized emergency location, which will then alert the appropriate agency, either police, fire or ambulance.

These lines are for emergency use only, and residents should continue to dial the individual police (786-4767), fire (786-2662), or detective bureau (786-1717) numbers for all other calls, leaving the 911 lines open to handle emergencies faster.

There is no charge for a 911 call. Agawam is the 68th community to introduce 911 in New England Telephone's five-state area.

911 Number Needs Use MTA Petition Filed

A 911 emergency telephone number is now in operation in Agawam, but, according to Police Chief Stanley Chmielewski, the availability of such a number still needs publicity as most people are still calling on the old police and fire department numbers.

Chmielewski explained that when the 911 number is dialed, one of six line routed into the police headquarters rings. If the caller needs police assistance, a patrol car is sent to his aid, and if the caller is reporting a fire or needs ambulance aid, the call is rerouted to one of the fire stations.

"The six lines we have into the police station are manned 24 hours a day," said Chmielewski, "but the problem now is to make people aware that the emergency number is available."

He stated that he realizes that it will take time to make residents of town aware that the number is in operation and to get them used to calling it. "A great deal of time can be saved by dialing 911 instead of the old seven-digit numbers if only residents of Agawam can be made aware of its existence," he said.

Chmielewski reported that decals would soon be placed on the town's police cruisers detailing the availability of the 911 number. He also expressed the hope that seeing the decals affixed to the cruisers as they appear around town will help to make people aware of the new emergency telephone system.

Fire Chief Harry Schneider requests all residents to remove from their emergency information files the seven-digit numbers which are no longer those to be used for emergencies. The number 786-2662 is now for a non-emergency fire department line, and 786-4767 is for a non-emergency police department line.

Schneider asks that all town residents place the 911 number prominently on display near each telephone in their homes, and that if a caller should need to use the number, that he immediately request which type of emergency service he requires.

Over 110,000 certified signatures on an initiative petition limiting state and local taxes and increasing state aid to local education were filed recently in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth by the Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA), sponsor of the petition.

A delegation of MTA representatives, led by MTA President Ellen O'Brien, MTA Executive Director William Hebert, and Jack Pacheco, MTA campaign director for the petition drive, hand-carried thousands of petitions from the MTA headquarters on Ashburton Place, Boston, across the street to the Elections Division of the Secretary of State's office.

MTA affiliates, representing MTA members employed in public education from kindergarten to the state's 10 colleges, 15 community colleges, and the Universities of Massachusetts and Lowell, have been gathering signatures of registered voters for the past several months in every community in the Commonwealth.

Dr. Hebert estimated the 110,000 signatures to be the largest number collected by any organization submitting initiative petitions this year.

"The MTA petition," said Hebert, "which limits state and local taxes to the increase in average personal income of all Massachusetts residents and also calls for increasing state aid to local education from the present 30% to 50% by 1984, is a sensible alternative to radical tax relief proposals such as Proposition 2½."

Hebert explained that the benefits of the MTA proposal include local property tax relief, pegging tax increases to an affordable level, limiting the share of personal income consumed by state and local taxes, capping the costs of municipal services, reducing reliance on the property tax to finance schools, and, finally, promoting the equalization of the burden of the cost of school support.

"Proposition 2½, on the other hand," charged Hebert, "will decimate vital public services including schools, fire and police protection because it will cut property taxes by 40 to 50% while offering no alternative funding; and like Proposition 13 in California, most of the savings will go to business, owners of large apartment complexes, and the federal government."

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AHS Students Injured At Civic Center Event

By Joanne Brown

On Tuesday, December 4th, four Agawam High School students attending the College Fair held at the Springfield Civic Center were viciously attacked by several youths roaming the area looking for a supply of marijuana.

The four Agawam boys were among three busloads of high school students, accompanied by the guidance counselors at the school, who had gone to the Civic Center to view the exhibit staged by nearly 100 colleges to make students aware of what they offer.

According to guidance counselor Paul Cavallo, the four local boys had taken a break for lunch at Friendly's in the Bay State West building, and as they were returning to the exhibit, a group of 7 to 9 black youths approached them asking for marijuana. When the Agawam boys replied they had none, they were beaten and two were seriously injured.

"One boy suffered a serious eye injury which resulted in considerable hemorrhaging, and another required surgery from complications that set in from a broken nose," stated Cavallo. "The two others had minor injuries as they managed to escape and find me for assistance."

Cavallo went on to explain the injured students were brought into the first aid station at the Civic Center by a meter maid, and the police were called. Twenty minutes later, a single cruiser appeared, and the officer in it told Cavallo he alone was covering the whole downtown area.

"With all those kids there from schools all over the area, you'd think the Springfield Police Department or the Civic Center security force would be beefed up in case of trouble," remarked Cavallo. According to him, the Civic Center security force was minimal.

Reportedly, the gang of youths who were involved in the attack on the Agawam students had been roaming the area all day and had allegedly attacked some students from Wilbraham earlier that morning. Five of the gang have been apprehended.

High School Principal David Theodorowicz has written a formal letter of protest to Civic Center Director Kerry Felski in which he strongly denounced the lack of security provided at an event which brought together

hundreds of students from the Greater Springfield area. Theodorowicz expressed concern for the safety of students attending events at the Civic Center if such an incident could happen in broad daylight on one of the busiest streets in the city.

"Granted that the incident occurred outside the Civic Center," continued Cavallo, "but our feeling is that the Civic Center should have requested extra city police or, if necessary, increased their own force, particularly after the earlier incident that morning involving the Wilbraham students."

The remainder of the students returned to the school without further incident, and the injured students have reportedly returned to school.

Winter Problems For Mail Carriers

City and rural mail carriers expect to deal with more than their share of snow and sleet and freezing rain, but Postmaster Joseph P. Dahdah reminded customers in the Feeding Hills area that his carriers will need assistance during winter months.

Carriers will make every reasonable effort to serve as many customers as possible during severe winter weather, but, Dahdah said, carriers are not expected to leave their vehicles and provide service on foot when roads, entire blocks, or other large portions of their routes are impassable.

"Carriers are expected to leave their vehicles to serve temporarily blocked individual boxes where there is no risk of personal injury or unusual physical exertion," Dahdah said, "but not when access to several mailboxes along a continuous segment of a route is blocked."

Dahdah said his office keeps in close contact with traffic and weather advisories to determine if deliveries should be suspended on a particular day, and with highway department officials to make sure public roads are passable and in good repair.

"We need everyone's cooperation in keeping approaches to boxes clear of snow and any other obstructions," Dahdah said, "so we can avoid cutting anyone's mail delivery even temporarily."

Postmaster Dahdah and the staff at the Feeding Hills Post Office wish everyone a very Merry Christmas.

Revenue Sharing Loss Imperils Tax Rate

Failure to reenact federal revenue sharing could result in local property tax increases averaging 8% in municipalities across the state, the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) stated recently.

Enacted originally in 1972, revenue sharing has been under fire in Congress as debate continues over extending the program. Under pressure to balance the federal budget, critics of revenue sharing have threatened cuts in funding in one of the only federal programs which responds to local priorities.

"Communities have used revenue sharing to provide the most basic services," said Lynn Mayor Antonio Marino, president of the MMA, in urging reenactment of the program. "It is vital for them to continue these funds."

In Agawam, loss of revenue sharing funds would increase local property taxes 4.7% just to maintain present services. Other local towns would be hard pressed as well. Southwick funds that would be cut include those used in the past to fire, police and health departments.

Generally through the state, municipalities have used the funds to pay police and fire salaries, provide roads water and sewer facilities, rubbish collection and snow removal. Revenue sharing funds received by the states themselves were generally used for education and social services aid.

"If this funding was lost," Marino continued, "the state would be forced to make up that revenue, possibly by cutting local aid to cities and towns."

"The effect would be a reduction in local services without a lowering of local property taxes," he concluded.

The MMA is urging all local officials to support reenactment of revenue sharing both for municipalities and for state government.

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Jamie Jacobs Engaged To Donald John Roy

Mr. and Mrs. Alvin H. Jacobs of 79 Forest Hill Road, Feeding Hills, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Jamie Michelle, to Donald John Roy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Roy, 148 Mountain Farm Road, Holyoke.

Miss Jacobs is a senior at Agawam High School and a part-time employee of D. H. Willett, D.D.S.

Mr. Roy is employed by Dave Ives Toyota/Datsun in Springfield.

No wedding date has been set as yet.

Richard Willis Nominated To Who's Who

Richard Willis of 35 Trinity Terrace, Agawam, has been nominated by Western New England College for inclusion in the 1979-80 edition of *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*.

A recognized institution of the American academic community, this *Who's Who* award is conferred annually upon outstanding student leaders. Over the past 45 years, more than 1,200 colleges and universities have adopted this program as part of their annual campus honors.

Selections are made by campus nominating committees and are based on decidedly above average academic standing, community service, leadership ability, and future potential.

As documentary evidence and in recognition of this honor, a certificate will be presented to Willis by his college later this year.

Willis is a senior in Western New England's School of Business majoring in Quantitative Methods. He is also the executive editor of the college's newspaper, *The Westerner*.

For the past three summers, Willis has been employed as a tennis instructor for the Agawam Parks and Recreation Department.

Golden Agers Hold Christmas Party



The Agawam Golden Agers held their annual Christmas party on December 5th at Chez Josef on Shoemaker Lane. Present at the luncheon were 207 members. A delicious steak and fixings were enjoyed. The AGawam High School band put all in attendance in a festive spirit. Pictured above are, front row, left to right: Alice Squazza, Emeline Comeau, Sally Jabry and Hazel Joyce. Back row, same order: Frank Garde, marion Bennenkade, Kay Aldrich, Michael Jabry, Mary Demerski, and Sam Joyce. Advertiser/News photo by Jack Devine



Secretaries Association Plans Christmas Party

Springfield chapter, the National Secretaries Association (International) will hold its annual Christmas party for members and their guests on Wednesday, December 19, at the Colosseum Banquet House in West Springfield with social hour at 5:30 and buffet at 6:30 p.m.

Entertainment for the evening has been designed for relaxation amid the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season. Jerry Rubin Productions, a semi-professional theatre group in East Longmeadow, will entertain with selections from the musical *Guys and Dolls*, which is scheduled to open at the Willow Glen in East Longmeadow on January 4th. The entertainers are local people, and many have appeared in various plays presented at the Blue Moon in East Longmeadow.

Chairmen of the Community Services Committee, Sophie Valtelhas and Gertrude Mercier, remind members to bring their gifts for the patients at the Springfield Municipal Hospital.

Also during this evening, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee Irene Cosgrove will announce the winners of the scholarship raffle. Tickets are still available for this cause.

Reservations for the Christmas party should be made with Chairman Marcia Uras at Mass. Mutual Life Insurance, 1295 State Street, Springfield before December 12. Assisting with arrangements for this event are Barbara Bass and Lois Skala.

Area secretaries wishing to become affiliated with Springfield chapter are asked to contact Membership Chairman Louise Hannifin at Mass. Mutual.

Community Grange To Meet

Community Grange will meet Tuesday evening, December 18th, at 7:30 p.m. in the Grange Home on North West Street.

An open meeting will be held for the annual Christmas party. The Junior Grange will be guests of the Subordinate Grange and will put on part of the program. Gifts will be exchanged by the Junior Grange, and Santa Claus is expected. For an evening of fun and entertainment, we urge all members and young people to be present.

A social hour will follow the meeting when Christmas refreshments will be served. Serving on the refreshment committee are Florence Blish, chairperson, assisted by Alice Smith and Caroline Almquist.

Members are reminded that contributions may be made to CARE, the Agawam Clearing House, and baskets for shut-ins.

Jewish Singles Plan Fireside Dance

The Jewish Singles of Western Massachusetts and Hartford's Single Young Professionals are sponsoring a fireside dance Monday, December 24th, from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Sheraton Tobacco Valley Inn in Windsor, Connecticut (exit 37 off I-91, 20 minutes from downtown Springfield).

There will be a nominal admission fee and proper attire is requested. In the event of inclement weather, call the Inn to confirm at 203-688-5221.

For further information, please contact Steve Mackler of 73 Bremen St., Springfield.



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Dancing to The Chuck Spalding Quartet
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French-American Group Holds Meeting

Mr. Laurent Stanislas, Mrs. Rollande Berube, and Mrs. Bernadette Smith attended an organizational meeting of the District V Councils of Union Saint-Jean-Baptiste, the nation's largest fraternal benefit society for Americans of French descent.

The meeting, held recently at St. Joseph Church parish hall in Springfield, was organized by R. Robert Grenier, the society's national director for Western Massachusetts.

Laurent Stanislas of Agawam is president of Council St. Thomas Aquinas Number 324 of Springfield and was one of more than 30 officers representing 12 councils which comprise District V.

Discussed at the meeting were plans for the upcoming district convention to be held Sunday, May 4, 1980, in the St. Joseph Church parish hall.

In attendance to help develop the district program was Lionel J. Frappier, vice-president of Fraternal Activities, who is based at the society's home office in Woonsocket, Rhode Island.

Founded in 1900, Union Saint-Jean-Baptiste provides its members with life and health insurance as well as undertaking philanthropic programs, including aid to the mentally retarded and educational assistance for members studying at the college or university level.

Pack 78 Sponsors Paper Drive

Cub Scout Pack 78, sponsored by the Polish American Club, Feeding Hills, will hold a paper drive at the club on Southwick Street on Saturday and Sunday, December 15th and 16th from 9:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Papers may be brought to the club on either day, or anyone with papers they wish picked up may call 786-7747 on Friday before 5 p.m. or the Polish American Club on Saturday.

Naturalists Club Plans Program On Whales

The Naturalists Club Task Force Whale Education and Conservation for Massachusetts is sponsoring a slide and movie program entitled *The Great Whales of Newfoundland*. The meeting will take place on Sunday, December 16th, at 2 p.m. in the amphitheater (Room 102, Building 17) of Springfield Technical Community College.

Dr. Peter Beamish, Canadian whale scientist and whale watch leader, will present this program about his summer "Ocean Contract" whale adventure expeditions along the coast of Newfoundland. This involved close encounters with minke, fin, humpback, and blue whales. Dr. Beamish's work with these gentle giants has produced numerous articles on whale behavior. Some of his research for the past ten years has focused on whale acoustics.

The public is invited free of charge.

Agawam's First Council On Arts And Humanities

Town Manager Peter Caputo recently announced the formation of Agawam's first Council on Arts and Humanities.

The council's purpose is to "assess the cultural needs of the community and to create, improve support and promote its cultural environment by stimulating public interest in all of the arts."

According to Caputo, a group of local citizens interested in the arts has had a number of meetings during the past few months and had requested that the town name an official arts council.

Those named to the council to date are Andrew Gallano, Geraldine Schilling-Nordal, Darcy Davis, John Wiley, Niobe O'Connor, Irene Scanlon, Barbara Skolnick, Sandra Dudek, Nancy Rosner, Dr. Raymond Casella, Robert Sands, Jessie Fuller, and Louise Amerman.

The council will hold its organizational meeting on December 13th at the Agawam Public Library.



Students from Danahy School have been collecting and recycling aluminum to save for a trip to Sturbridge Village. Pictured above from left to right are: Barbara Kimball, Principal of the school; Anna Crean, grade 4 teacher; Joey Walz, Chrissy Letellier, Barbara Moreau, and Cele Schmazole, grade 4 teacher. Advertiser/News photo by Jack Devine

Christmas Seals fight lung disease



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1. All children 10 years and under are eligible to enter.
2. A WATCH will be awarded to winners in each category: 7 years and under and 8-10 years.
3. Entries must be done in crayon, colored pencil, or magic marker....Entries will be judged on neatness and originality. Decisions of the judges will be final.
4. All entries MUST BE RECEIVED AT THE AGAWAM/ADVERTISER NEWS OFFICE BY 12 NOON ON FRIDAY DECEMBER 14, 1979. Entries may be dropped off at 26 North Westfield Street, Feeding Hills, or mailed to P.O. Box 233, Agawam, MA. 01001.
5. Children of employees of the Agawam Advertiser/News are not eligible to enter.

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Agawam, Mass. 01001

NAME

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DATE OF BIRTH

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St. Anthony of Padua Girls Choir recently entertained residents of Heritage Hall Nursing Home and shut-ins in their own parish. Pictured from left to right, back row, are: Tina Orlosk, Donna Moccio, Cindy Napoli, Ann Phillips, Terese Napoli, Gina Letellier, Karen Govoni, Gina Dialessi, Becky Peterson, Jo-Ann Moccio, Christine Orefice, Jennifer Poyell, Philomena Napoli, assistant director; and Joanne Beltrandi, director. Front row: Donna Moccio, Ann Napoli, Lori Orlosk, Beth Phillips and Judy Govoni.

Our Feathered Friends

by Mary Os



The beginning of winter heralds the start of fullscale bird feeding activities for most of us. The availability of natural food diminishes drastically and abruptly with the first covering of snow and the hunt begins for alternative sources.

This year, the weather has been a mixed blessing for the birds. The high winds and rain residual from Hurricane David caused the avian population some bad moments as did the totally unexpected tornado. Because they occurred after the nesting season, populations will be affected through deaths directly attributed to the storms, but not to damage or extremem immaturity of fledglings.

The tornado did change the structure of some of our wooded areas by creating more edge and brush nesting sites and by decreasing the denser forest areas. It should follow that there be better nesting conditions next spring for border dwellers, a fact that should be reflected in the 1980 Christmas count at Robinson State Park.

The warm temperatures and lack of snow this fall have made it unnecessary to start any concentrated bird feeding program yet. But, as an New Englander can tell you, that can and probably will change any day now. So it's important to be prepared for the eventuality.

Because I lost two feeders in the tornado, I treated myself to a new barrel-style thistle and sunflower feeder. Thistle is available, even plentiful, this year so I am using it exclusively in the barrel feeder and putting the sunflower seed in a platform feeder with the mixed seed. I also bought, locally by the way, a new suet holder with the plastic coated mesh.

Traffic has been light at the feeders so far, but there have been titmice, downy woodpeckers, chickadees, nuthatches, and blue jays.

For anyone starting a feeding routine this season, the key word is continuity. The birds will come to count on your station as a food source and their very lives may depend upon its being there.

Also remember a fresh source of water is needed. If you are afraid you might neglect replenishing the station, try a suet holder which requires much less attention and provides an excellent source of energy. Use beef suet and hang high out of animals' reaches.

Citizens Seek To Revive Mayor Charter

Claiming that the community has been subjected to "bad solicitor decisions and court decrees and non-professionalism in government" since the beginning of the town manager/fifteen member council in 1972, the Citizen's For Good Government announced today that petitions to revive the recently defeated mayoral charter will be circulated immediately.

According to Valentine R. Moreno, the former at-large councilor and newly elected president of the citizen's committee, the group will meet on a regular basis to plan the petition drive and subsequent push for the election of a strong mayor/nine member council. The group has been inactive for two years.

Moreno said the group needs to obtain 1,231 signatures of registered voters, or ten percent of the voting list, to place the proposed mayoral charter back on the ballot.

Massachusetts General Laws stipulate that because the necessary number of voters, 2,404, favored the charter change to a mayor/council format in the November 6 election, a petition effort receiving the necessary signatures mandates the calling of a special election.

Moreno said forms have been issued by the Secretary of State's office and members of the organization will kickoff the drive as soon as possible.

In a prepared statement to the Advertiser/News, Moreno pointed to confusion caused by the pro-manager faction, the council and the minority of members on the Charter Commission, and chairman Andrew C. Gallano this past election "as leading us to take action to place the mayor charter back on the ballot."

Moreno scored Gallano for lobbying for the present charter during pre-election discussions that Gallano held with several town organizations.

He added, "the experience with the manager form of government in Agawam has been a dismal failure. It has set Agawam back years in time costing millions of dollars. Government by inexperience, politics and now total disregard of the charter, it's rules and laws must end."


Moreno stressed that the petition drive "is totally within the law" adding, "we expect to campaign for the new mayor charter and we want voters to know in advance that we will be asking for their help and support in this effort."

Citizens For Good Government assembled December 4.



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EDITORIAL

The Strange Case of Caputo, Nantucket, and What's Ahead

by Ric Sardella

The picturesque island of Nantucket announces at a press conference that Town Manager Peter Caputo is their new chief of police. Caputo resigns his Agawam post. Twenty-four hours later, following an emergency session, Nantucket selectmen rescind their hiring of Caputo, claiming that his resume controversy here left them with no alternative.

Burning Question

That same day, the burning question in each and every coffee shop in town is "Who gave the information on Caputo's resume to Nantucket?" Many folks hear a variety of stories, while those accused wink their baby blues in innocence.

Council President Richard Theroux calls a special session of that body to accept the resignation. Town Clerk Edward Caba and Town Treasurer David Gallano are mentioned as candidates for the interim period. Then comes an announcement by former Citizens for Good Government President Anthony Saracino that State Representative Edward Connelly merits the vacant manager position fulltime. He says that a grass roots movement is afoot to convince the council of Connelly's being the best man for the job.

Does the entire scenario take on a confusing and bizarre look? Sure does.

Attempting to place these past 7 days of local politics into some type of order or into proper perspective is similar to assembling a five thousand piece jigsaw puzzle with half the pieces missing. Let's try.

First, the Nantucket selectmen and their haphazard methods of finding and firing a police chief deserve note.

Caputo forwards a resume. He excludes the academic portion that created havoc and hellfire for him since it was discovered that Rochdale College was a diploma mill. Nantucket shows interest and summons Caputo to their lovely island nest.

Caputo says he informed the selectmen of the resume affair, but failed to note its gravity. It is later learned that the selectmen hired an investigative agency from Boston, Dowe Inc., to check out Caputo. According to a source in Nantucket, the agency's report included a reference to the resume, but the selectmen ignored it.

Notified Without Warning

Caputo is hired at a press conference last Tuesday and is notified, without prior warning, by telephone. He accepts and the news leaks out forcing him to resign. He comments that "it's time to move on."

Later, that same day, Nantucket learns of Caputo's resume. How that transpired depends on who you talk to.

Cape Cod media say that a radio man serving the area was aware of the Caputo situation and notified Nantucket. Others claim that local media spilled the beans. Still others point to Valentine R. Moreno, Caputo's staunchest critic and the man who researched the Rochdale scandal, as being responsible. Moreno says no. A reporter for the *Cape Cod Times* again confirms that no Agawamite, including Moreno, forwarded any so-called "Caputo kits" to Nantucket.

Other Caputo detractors are accused of sending the information and nixing the appointment. Whoever is responsible, their venom wreaks with stench. A nasty thing to do.

Seeded With Bad Blood

As for Nantucket selectmen, their actions can only be termed as bush and ludicrous. They hired Caputo without ever coming to this community and checking him out. Sources say that Nantucket's police department is seeded with bad blood and appointing Caputo, after learning of his resume, would precipitate further discord in their department.

Hastily, and without giving Caputo an opportunity to reply or defend himself, they nix the deal - just like that. And people complain about our elected officials?

Back on the home front, Caputo, naturally distraught, refuses comment to press and TV reporters buzzing about Town Hall. Who can blame him? He did reaffirm he is leaving town January 5th.

Who will be the interim manager while a search committee hunts a new one? If Caba gets the nod, will he seek the job as he did two years ago before Caputo was hired? And what non-Agawamite would dare take the job anyway? Speculation abounds that the only outsiders sending in resumes would be young and eager novices or gentlemen ready for retirement, but need a year or two of work before leaving for the tropics.

That notion bothers many townsfolk. Last week, Caputo, the same man who received a 12-0 vote of confidence from the council on the resume issue, and the same man who found out three months later that politics in this community is for keeps, voiced concern for the next manager. "I wonder what will happen when he comes under constant fire," Caputo said. Historical precedent seems to answer that.

Semblance Of Order

Is an insider the best choice? Some feel that Connelly can take the job by the reigns and put this community into a semblance of order. I happen to concur.

The tragedy of Peter Caputo should remind us all of what lies ahead. Mayoral insurgency persists. The Town Council remains unstable. The beast that is town politics continues to create anxiety for town employees and its residents. Agawam represents a media haven. Why this town can't even have a few scratchy heads without the entire state knowing about it.

Who can lead Agawam in this form of government? The barometer reads Edward Connelly, a man who has served this community with distinction as selectman, state representative, and concerned neighbor. He commands respect. He is one of our own, a favorite son.

Placing Connelly into Town Hall is giving the charter a chance to breathe again. He knows the beast. If this government is to survive, Connelly has the professional and political know-how.

What's it going to be? More nonsense or common sense?

From The Editors Desk

By Pat Guevin



Our office was flooded with calls this past week from distraught and concerned parents. The subject of these phone calls? What else-LICE! The frustration mounts, and the deeper we dig into the situation, the more messy and confusing the whole thing is getting. There are more rumors, misinterpretations, and out and out untruths floating around town about the lice situation then there were at the height of the Peter Caputo resume scandal.

What's beginning to emerge from all of this is the sad realization that parents and educators alike are becoming more and more confused about this issue. To make matters worse, members of my staff and I have had conversations with school department personnel and members of the Board of Health - and unfortunately, we are hard pressed to get two people to give us the same story - the same facts and the same figures.

The situation at this writing appears to be getting worse, although Thomas O'Keefe, principal of James Clark School, is holding forth the hope that things are taking a turn for the better - fewer new cases being reported in his school.

I have only to say this. Things appeared to be better before the Thanksgiving vacation. According to a report to Town Manager Peter Caputo from Helath Director Ronald Young, no new cases were found at Clark School the day the kids left for Thanksgiving recess. However, the day the children returned from those few days off, scores of children were sent home with lice! This could very well be the situation when our schools close for Christmas vacation - if some drastic action is not taken now!

Apparently the powers that be - whoever they are since there seems to be a lot of buck-passing these days on just who is in charge of who - choose not to close the schools. I've heard a lot of "They've" advised us not to go that route (whoever "they" are). The Board of Health has requested that CCD classes, athletic programs, Scouting, etc. be cancelled until the lice thing is cleared up, but what good is that going to do if they are still together in school and on the busses??!!

What good does it do to check childrens' heads after they've travelled to school on the bus? One report we received claimed that the busses were being cleaned out at night and left out in the cold to prevent any possible infestation. Upon checking, the best we are able to determine at this point is that the busses were treated only once - last week! If this is true, certainly once is not enough since the children ride the busses daily.

It is also a fact that not all children are being checked daily, although some would like you to think that this is the case.

We are as frustrated as everyone else, and we demand some accurate reporting by our officials! It is time Mr. Young our Health Director come out of his office and address the entire parent population of this community. We demand to know exactly what your plan of action is Mr. Young, and we offer you any amount of space you need in this newspaper to explain your position and what is being done for our children. How you respond to this offer will indicate to us and to our readers your concern for the public welfare.

Councilors William Herd and McNamara agreed with Deforge, although Herd noted that "getting the ball rolling was important." Theroux pointed to the Charter which calls for immediate action by the Council when selecting a town manager as his major reason for wanting to appoint a committee immediately.

Following a suggestion by Herd to advertise the position in national media but wait on the search committee appointments until the January 4th session, the Council voted 13-0 to allow all applicants for the position to mail their resumes to Theroux at the Town Hall.

Application deadlines for the position will be discussed at the December 17th meeting. The Council instructed Theroux and Caba to research the publication dates of the various trade journals in order for the Council to set a deadline that is fair to both the applicants and the search committee. Several councilors indicated after the meeting that the middle of February would probably be the period agreed upon for all applicants to submit resumes.

According to Caputo, Caba has been privy to all information flowing into the Manager's office over the past few days in anticipation that the Council would ask the Clerk to serve as manager during the interim period. Caba said that Rita Rose, assistant town clerk, would serve as town clerk during the interim.

Council vice-president Francis Colli recommended that Caba "resent the Council with any further recommendations he may have concerning his stewardship as interim manager."



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To The Editor:

I would like you to know how much I appreciated your article (December 6, *We Call For A Closing Of Our Schools*).

I am the father of four children presently in the Agawam School System. My family and I support you one hundred percent and certainly are not happy with the way the situation is presently being handled.

We are concerned for the health of our children and hope that your suggestions will be considered by the present administration.

We hope that other parents like ourselves will voice their opinions and support your suggestions in order to bring this terrible situation under control.

Yours Very Truly,
Nicola DiTomaso

Town Council To Meet

There will be a regular meeting of the Agawam Town Council on Monday, December 17th, at 8 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library in the Community Room.

Board Of Health To Meet

There will be a meeting of the Agawam Board of Health on Thursday, December 13th, at 8 p.m. at the Agawam Town Hall 36 Main Street.

SBA Available For Assistance At Town Hall Weekly

The Small Business Administration will be available for assistance and loan applications for Agawam and Feeding Hills residents who need financial aid for damage sustained during the October tornado.

Assistance will be available at the Town Hall on Main Street from 9 to 4 o'clock each Thursday through January 17th. The deadline for all applications is January 21, 1980.

Caba Selected

continued from page 1

The matter took a bizarre twist when Nantucket selectmen rescind their action after receiving information on the Caputo resume controversy that erupted here last summer. Caputo then said he would not withdraw his intention to leave the community.

Soon after, a grass roots movement to install State Representative Edward Connelly into Caputo's vacated position was announced. Connelly, Agawam's most prominent public figure, would not comment on the movement to place him into town hall.

Action on the selection of a five member search committee to find a new manager was postponed until the convening of the new Council in January. Dialogue on the issue was mixed as Theroux maintained that appointing a committee "as soon as possible" was critical to expediting the selection process.

Several Councilors, led by Robert Deforge, opposed action on selecting a committee until the Council selected a new president in January.

"In all fairness to the new Council and to the people who elected them, I think that no search committee should be appointed until after the first of the year," asserted Deforge. "I don't think it will matter if we wait until two more weeks. Two years ago we waited until the new Council convened before selecting a committee." Two years ago, Deforge served as chairman of the search committee that eventually recommended that

Rolland Challenges Nardi To Debate

Precinct one candidate Joseph Rolland, anticipating that he and Frederick Nardi will meet in the February 19 special election, today challenged the incumbent Nardi to a public debate.

According to Rolland, the debate could be held in a school auditorium to provide precinct one residents with an opportunity to observe the two candidates discuss important precinct and town issues.

The 22-year-old newcomer stunned Nardi and the community by deadlocking the political veteran after the November 6th election. A recount held at Town Hall on December 4th reaffirmed the tally: 575 votes for Rolland and 575 votes for Nardi. Council Vice-President Francis Colli topped the ballot with 581 votes.

Town Attorney Lambert Ollari then ruled that a special election, open to all precinct residents, was necessary to break the tie. Ollari's decision came under fire from various members of the community, including Rolland, for not ruling that a runoff election between the two stalemated candidates was warranted. A January 22 primary date has been scheduled by Town Clerk Edward Caba.

Asked for comment on Rolland's challenge, Nardi said he will wait until after the January primary before agreeing to a debate with Rolland or any other candidate. He said it would be premature to maintain any other posture at this time.

Nardi stated, "From what I understand, there will be a couple more candidates in the race besides myself and Mr. Rolland. I don't know who will be in after the primary so I will maintain a holding pattern on a debate until then."

Rolland, however, dismissed the notion that a new challenger threatens the expected showdown between him and Nardi.

"I am assuming that the election will be between the two of us. I don't think the voters in precinct one will take a good look at Johnny-come-lately's."

Following Ollari's ruling, Rolland had indicated that he may take legal action. Ollari's decision against a runoff, according to Rolland, "was wrong and not properly researched."

He added, however, that he has now ruled out the possibility of initiating legal proceedings. "I've accepted the decision. A lawsuit is in no one's best interests, especially the residents of precinct one."

At this time, Rolland related, "I am researching issues to bring forth before the precinct." He said there are several matters that he will take issue with Nardi, but would not elaborate.

He did take the opportunity to criticize the incumbent councilor of four terms for his involvement on the search committee for Town Manager Peter Caputo.

Rolland cited the August 22 executive session of the council that resulted in a 12-0 vote of confidence in Caputo and his controversial resume as an indication that Nardi "failed his responsibility as a councilor."

During the closed door session, Nardi revealed to his colleagues that prior to Caputo's appointment, he had uncovered information about Caputo's academic credentials similar to the information being circulated around town about the manager receiving a BA degree from a Canadian diploma mill.

"If Mr. Nardi had information that questioned the resume, why didn't he share it with his fellow councilors instead of keeping it to himself?" Rolland commented. "If he had come forward with this information, perhaps this entire situation in Agawam could have been avoided. And to this day, Mr. Nardi has not gone public with his findings." R.S.



Joseph Rolland

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Enjoying the Agawam Rotary Christmas Party are, from left: Bunny Belden, Marion Ekstedt, Santa Dave DeLancey, Geri Lauriente, and Irene DeLancey. Advertiser/News photo by Jack Devine

Parks And Rec Dept. Offers Daytime Class

The Agawam Parks and Recreation Department is offering its first daytime Fit and Trim class.

Classes will be held each Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9:30 - 10:30 at the Springfield Turnverein located at 176 Garden Street, Feeding Hills. Classes will start on January 9th and 11th, and no class will be held on Wednesday, January 16th.

Mary Beth Giannetti will instruct the program, along with the program of floor exercises and physical movements, she will also offer nutritional education.

Look better, feel better, and meet new friends; register now at the Parks and Recreation office daily Monday to Friday from 9 to 4 o'clock. The cost will be \$12 per person. Class will have a limit of 50 people, and the program will run until Friday, March 21.

The Parks and Recreation Department would like to thank the Springfield Turnverein for the use of its gym and building facilities to make this program possible.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

December 15th
Cub Scout Pack 78
Paper Drive
Polish American Club
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Call 786-7747 for
paper pick-up

December 18th
Community Grange
Grange Home
North West St.
7:30 p.m.

January 12th
Armchair Racing
And Buffet
Sponsored By
Aga. Hockey Assoc.
Polish Amer. Club
6:30 p.m.

December 17th
Catholic Women's
St. John's Parish
Center
8 p.m.

December 13th
Youth Center
Pot Luck Supper
Agawam Cong. Ch.
6-8 p.m.

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Agawam small business executive Ronald P. Masnicki, left, greets American Stock Exchange Chairman Arthur Levitt, Jr. at recent Annual Meeting of the Smaller Business Association of New England (SBANE), nation's oldest regional small business association. Masnicki, President of National Aerospace, Inc., in Agawam, is a delegate to the White House Conference on Small Business in Washington from January 14-17. Levitt, who addressed the SBANE Annual Meeting, is President Carter's choice to chair a citizens commission established to oversee the White House Conference.

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Women's Club Plans Meeting

The December meeting of the Agawam Women's Club will be held at the Capt. Leonard House on December 17th at 8 o'clock.

The program will be "The Hair Freaks II" a seminar with David Marvici, 1978-79 New England's Women's Hairstyling gold medalist.

Members are asked to bring in canned goods and mittens for the needy.

Anyone interested in joining the club please contact Mrs. Kenneth Pond, Main Street, Agawam.

Friends Of Clearing House

The following individuals and organizations have donated to the Agawam Clearing House project which aids needy Agawam families during the holiday season.

Those listed below are in addition to those listed in previous issues of this newspaper.

Dr. Thomas Morrier - box of children's toothpaste kits
Agawam Lioness Club - financial donation
Agawam Catholic Women's Club - financial donation
Marriage Encounter Love Circle - financial donation
Agawam Permanent Firefighters Association - financial donation
Agawam Copy & Print - paper for notices to Robinson Park School parents
Agawam Lions - financial donation
Agawam United Methodist Church - financial donation

For further information or if you or your organization would like to donate to the Clearing House project, please contact Mrs. Barbara Connery at 786-2671.

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AAA Jamboree: Fun Day For Officials

By the time 5:30 rolled around, Rosemary Sandlin drooped in her chair. Throughout the entire day at the high school, the Agawam Athletic Association's secretary had been besieged with kids and coaches failing to bring in raffle tickets, birth certificates, and raffle ticket money.

Meanwhile, basketball commissioner Dave Lyne and association vice-president Bob Hersey had witnessed some 360 kids, comprising 36 teams, ranging in ages from 8-16, smile for the league photographer and complain about game socks being too big. But they were on hand to answer any and all questions. The day-long quiz show ended about 6:30 for her and other AAA officials; everyone else had gone home long before.

So it was for the Agawam Athletic Association's ninth annual jamboree, a day where team pictures, collection of raffle tickets, and one half of floor time for each team has become a tradition for the town's largest youth organization.

The event began at 11 a.m. with an 8-10 boys game. From there, a game was held every half hour. The 10-12 and 13-15 boys gave way to the girls league about 3:30.

League President Jerry Mason, serving the festivities in an ex-officio capacity, says that the raffle brought the association \$1200. Daniel Ferrais, 32 Channel Drive, Agawam, won the \$100 grand prize which prompted Mason's comment, "He was happy, to say the least."

This year's jamboree came ever so close to being cancelled. The lice problem in the schools created a situation where the Board of Health recommended to

Mason on Friday that the Saturday affair be postponed until the parasitic infestation had vanished. Mason refused.

"We just couldn't cancel the jamboree on Friday. We thought that because the little kids were in the gym before the bigger kids, the chances for lice being communicated were very slim," he explained.

What Mason did agree to was the postponement of all association practices in public schools until the first of the year. Upon learning of the mixing of all training sessions, many coaches grumbled.

But Mason said, "Whatever the lice problem might pose would certainly be offset by the AAA cancelling the practices. We don't want to endanger the kids with the chance of contracting lice. We will wait until January 1, after that, I hope it's business as usual."

The jamboree provided coaches a chance to get a sneak preview of their charges under game conditions. Several had already scrimmaged opposing teams, but it's a different ball game when pinstriped officials point accusing fingers for three seconds and traveling.

The 10-12 and 13-15 boys leagues appear extremely

balanced. Rick Mahoney and Ken Barnes sport strong quintets in the 10-12. In the 13-15, perennial champs, Polish Club, won't find it so easy this time around.

Back in the school's cafeteria, the command post of sorts for AAA prexy, Mrs. Sandlin, as usual, was finding the same coaches committing the same errors. Al Bonavita, a 10-12 coach, again rates high on the list of coaches whose administrative ability on attending meetings and having paper work in order merits a special deadbeat award at the winter sports banquet, according to Mrs. Sandlin.

"Oh, there are others who keep life exciting for us. It seems the coaches are very loud on the court, but become very silent when it comes time for paper work." Beware. Al, a few are creeping up.

As usual, Hersey was full of clever one-liners such as, "It's going to be a long year." Hersey also directs a 10-12 squad. Each time he barks "Do it!" his green-clad hoopsters spring into a fast break offense. "We're going to do it to him," one coach was heard saying in the grandstand.

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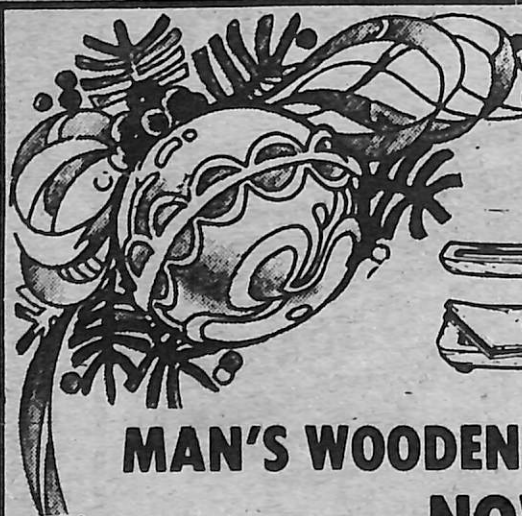
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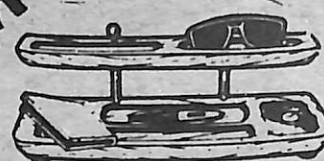
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SPORTS

Conte Holds High Expectations For Hoopsters

Beat Pacers 49-39

Whenever the Agawam Brownies encounter a Valley League squad for a freindly game of round ball, traditionally, the locals fell far short on the scoreboard. Last year, for example, Lou Conte opened his coaching career 50 points in the hole against the Chicopee Pacers.

That drubbing remained firm in Conte's mind when his hoopsters took the floor Tuesday night against the same Chicopee Packers. What a difference a year makes.

Paced by Abe Yacteen's 22 point 11 rebound effort, Agawam outscrapped Chicopee 49-39 on the losers home floor. Conte commented after the opening victory that the orange and brown are a quasi-version of the Pittsburg Pirates. He said the Brownies are a "closely knit family that is unselfish and pulling for each other."

After a 6-14 record rookie season, supplemented by an equally dim Valley Wheel finish, Conte went to the drawing board and decided a change was necessary in Agawam's basketball philosophy.

The late November tryouts saw Conte select the best sixteen players to suit up for varsity and junior varsity. The action broke an age old tradition that had two separate teams, each manned with 10-12 performers practicing on adjacent courts. Conte now practices the blue chippers with the up and coming players. Judging from Tuesday's score card, the move is paying dividends already.

"Our basic philosophy is to work together as a unit during practice. We work on all the fundamentals together, scrimmage together and I get a good look at all the players on JV at the same time. The kids have really responded well to the method."

How long Conte's togetherness medicine continues to cure a program that has suffered from an assortment of ailments the past five seasons remains to be seen. Conte's boys are talented and experienced, but lack the all important depth.

Returning for their final season in Agawam colors are forwards Abe Yacteen and Ricky LeClerc. The two

seniors averaged close to 12 points and 12 rebounds per outing in their junior sessions. Each commands a variety of talents under the iron and should give fits to opposing big men.

Yacteen is a 6-2 jumping jack while LeClerc uses body position as leverage off the backboards.

"Talent wise, Abe and Ricky are among the best in the league. Abe is coming into his own and Ricky is a hustler and consistency-plus. We'll get our share of rebounds this year."

Ironically, Conte revealed that Agawam's return to the top of the Wheel depends heavily on 6'6" senior center, Donny LaViolette.

Many loyalists will remember LaViolette as being that awkward, skinny giant Conte would insert in the lineup from time to time last winter. Not so now. LaViolette, improving and gaining confidence with each passing day, snared 14 bounds in Chicopee. He proved up to the task of warding off muscular opponents.

Conte praised of his pivotman: "Don works very hard in practice and he's improved 100 percent. He's an intimidator with his size and our ultimate success this season revolves around him."

While Conte abounds in confidence when gazing at his tall timber, the boyish mentor keeps his fingers crossed when describing the backcourt.

In senior Jerry Quill, Agawam possesses a seasoned veteran, an excellent ballhandler and common sense. That's a floor general to direct the attack, Conte says. Joining Quill is a fifth senior, Danny Beaudette.

If either guard gets into serious foul trouble or if Agawam's deliberate, look-for-a-forward-underneath game strategy falters, Conte may dabble with four forward offense to compensate. "You'll probably see it before too long," he acknowledged.

In the depth department, sophomore forward Kevin Barnes will feel the heat of action as will Dean Molta, a junior frontliner. Senior Chris Kasantis and juniors Mike Knight and Dave Lynes mold the remainder of the bench brigade.

Conte said he doesn't expect constant aide from the reserves this season. He is also faced with a point producing deficiency from Quill and Beaudette, both of whom are noted for their ability to create havoc for the opposition via pinpoint passing to Yacteen and LeClerc.

If Agawam somehow finds itself without Quill for a long stretch, it could be throw out the life rafts and kneel for players.

"The fact that we beat Chicopee is a good sign. I feel good about this team and its chances to finish near the top. We have weaknesses that have to be worked on, but we also have some notable strengths," he related.

Amherst, with four starters returning and perennial tough-guy Putnam figure to be the Brownies major obstacles in league competition. Conte rates Longmeadow and East Longmeadow, a pair of squads led by coaches Ron Morrisette and Ed Modzelewski, respectively, as further reason for being wary of league wars.

The Brownies continue their independent slate through the holiday season. Chicopee invades the high school gym Tuesday for a return match. The locals open the Valley Wheel schedule January 4 in East Longmeadow.

Hockey Association Highlights

The Agawam Hockey Association's season has begun with league play beginning on December 1. There are 96 children, ages 6-16, participating on seven Greater Springfield Hockey Association teams. Teams and their sponsors are as follows: 8-10 D Agawam V.F.W. Post 1632; 8-10 A Agawam-West Springfield ELks 2174; 10-12 C Simon Container Machinery; 10-12 A Agawam V.F.W. Post 1632; 12-14 C Polish American Club; 12-14 A Drewnowski Construction; and 14-16 Agawam Rotary Club. The Association's Board of Directors wishes to thank all of the sponsors for their support of youth hockey.

Some Game Highlights.....

The 8-10 D Agawam V.W.F. Post 1632 has lost both of their first two outings. Their first game was against Van Horn, 4-0, and their second against Holy Cross, saw the same score - 4-0.

There has been a strong team effort by this young (only three of the 12 players are over 8 years of age!) second year team. Excellent goal tending by Mark Sohay has been the highpoint of both games.

***** continued on page 15

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Sportsman Corner

by Bill Chiba



The muzzleloader season closed in Connecticut with 288 deer reported at the check stations throughout the state. It is a 25% increase over last year. There were 193 bucks and 95 does for a buck/doe ratio of 2 to 1. Like archers, the muzzleloaders this year tended to be buck selective.

The majority of deer taken came from state land with 207 deer in state forests and only 18 reported from private property. The largest deer taken was a dressed weight buck of 191 pounds. It had a rack of eight points, a ten-pointer weighing 169 pounds was killed in Quaddick State Forest. Stan Berchulski's nemesis 183-pound eight pointer was killed in the Tunxis State Forest.

Paul Herig, chief of the DEP Wildlife Unit, informs me that applications for the 1980 deer season lottery will be available the first of February and must be received in DEP's Hartford office by March 15. This year, it is especially important that applicants for the lottery, as well as private land hunters, pick up and read the 1980 Deer Season Field Guide as there are a number of significant changes in Connecticut's deer laws which go into effect in 1980.

After a hectic hunting season including Vermont, New York, and Massachusetts bow season, Noel Brown of Feeding Hills has finally bagged his buck in Sandisfield gun week. It was an eight pointer that dressed out 147 pounds. Steve Blackburn also nailed an eight pointer and Tony Marceil collected a spike horn.

The total deer killed this past season during the gun week is 2,501, considerably lower than the predicted 3200 by Jim McDonough, game biologist for the division. Again the weather is blamed for the decline in harvest. I think that if more hunters ventured into the woods instead of posting on the roads waiting for other hunters to push deer into them, the deer kill would be higher.

The modern hunter just does not like to walk or to exert too much energy while hunting deer. Drive down any backwoods road in Otis, Monterey, Sandisfield, and New Marlboro, and you see bright orange no more than 40 yards in from the road. Emphasis today is on jogging and body conditioning. It seems that the majority of hunters during gun week have never heard of the body beautiful theme and will not walk into the woods to witness and observe nature in its pristine form. It is a shame, so much is being missed by the natives.

I know that quite a few local fishermen fish the northern reaches of New Hampshire. The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department has put together a biological survey report on lakes and ponds in Sullivan, Merrimack, Belknap, and Strafford Counties; or in Coos, Grafton, and Carroll Counties; or in Cheshire, Hillsboro, and Rockingham Counties. The survey includes size, depth, fish species present, and other pertinent data for each pond surveyed. The surveys may be purchased for \$2.50. They would make a nice Christmas gift.

A Massachusetts hunting and fishing license or a sporting license would make a pleasant Christmas gift for some one you love this year. The 1980 licenses are available at the Town Hall now.

Hockey Association Highlights

continued from page 14

Their second outing against the Springfield Elks, saw Agawam go down to defeat 1-0. After an early score in the first period by Springfield, Mike Moccio turned in an excellent game in a fast skating and close checking game.

Team representatives are reminded to turn their news release forms in to this newspaper by Tuesday at noon of each week.

The Agawam Hockey Association will hold an evening of Arm Chair Racing on January 12, 1980. The races (shown on film) and buffet will begin promptly at 7 p.m. at the Polish American Club, Southwick Street, Feeding Hills.

Tickets are \$3.75 per person and available from any Hockey Association member. For further information, call 786-7747.

The Agawam 8-10 A Agawam-West Springfield Elks 2174 now have a record of 2 wins and 1 loss. The loss came in their latest outing against Van Horn, 5-4. Goal scorers were Ricky Parolo with a hat trick, and Tony Young, making his first season point. Paul Karam and Tony Young also chalked up assists. Brian Boutwell was outstanding in goal.

The game was tied until the closing minutes when the winning goal was scored on a heart-breaking play. Both teams were evenly matched with Agawam getting 22 shots on net and Van Horn 25.

The 14-16 Agawam Rotary team has a record of 1 win and 1 loss. The win, their first season game, was played against East Longmeadow 10-2.

Goalie Mike Moccio put in two scoreless periods of excellent goal tending, to finish the game 10-2 behind the fast skating and sharp shooting of all his team mates. Hat tricks were turned in by Jeff Racine and Steve Kovalski. Two goals were scored by Dave Bell. Rick Cassessi and Tom Drewnowski both scored one goal each.

The 10-12 C Simon Container team has won their first two league games. Game one, against Chicopee, saw Agawam victorious by a 2-1 margin. The Agawam goals were scored by Larry Bouchard and Dave Veilleux, with strong support from team members Chris Shea, Dave Keeney, and Bob Collen. Jeff Guevin was in goal.

The second game saw Simon Container Machinery get their first shutout of the season 5-0, with Jeff Guevin in goal against East Longmeadow. Chris Shea got a hat trick (3 goals), and Larry Bouchard scored two. Dave Keeney played strong team hockey with three assists.

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Principal
Agawam Junior High School



BOYS BASKETBALL

Head Coach - Mr. Conte
JV Coach - Mr. Baker
Site - High School
Time - 6:00 P.M.

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE
December 11	Chicopee	Away
18	Chicopee	Home
21	West Springfield	Home
January 4	East Longmeadow	Home
8	Ludlow	Away
11	Putnam	Away
15	South Hadley	Home
18	Minnechaug	Home
22	Longmeadow	Away
25	Amherst	Away
February 1	East Longmeadow	Away
5	Ludlow	Home
8	Putnam	Home
12	South Hadley	Away
15	Minnechaug	Away
19	Longmeadow	Home
22	Amherst	Home
26	West Springfield	Away

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Head Coach - Mrs. Fitzgerald
JV Coach - Mrs. Stevens
Site - High School
Time - 3:30 P.M.

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE
December 11	Chicopee	Home
18	Chicopee	Away
21	West Springfield	Away
January 4	East Longmeadow	Away
8	Ludlow	Home
11	Putnam	Home
15	South Hadley	Away
18	Minnechaug	Away
22	Longmeadow	Home
25	Amherst	Home
February 1	East Longmeadow	Home
5	Ludlow	Away
8	Putnam	Away
12	South Hadley	Home
15	Minnechaug	Home
19	Longmeadow	Away
22	Amherst	Away
26	West Springfield	Home

BOYS VARIETY SWIMMING

Coach - Mr. David Smith
Site - Junior High School

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
December 11	Hoosic Valley (North Adams)	Away	3:30
14	Chicopee (Chicopee H.S.)	Away	3:30
18	Turners Falls	Home	3:30
21	West Spfld.	Home	7:00
27	Christmas Relay (Spfld. College)	Away	6:00
January 4	Tech	Home	7:00
8	Pittsfield	Home	3:30
11	Holyoke (Holyoke H.S.)	Away	3:30
14	Westfield (Westfield H.S.)	Away	3:30
18	Ludlow & Waconah	Home	3:30
21	Taconic (Pitt. Boys Club)	Away	3:30
25	Chicopee Comp.	Home	3:30
29	Amherst	Home	3:30
February 1	Northampton (Hamp. YMCA)	Away	2:30
8	Classical (Kiley Jr. H.S.)	Away	3:30
15	West. Mass. Championship		P.M.

JUNIOR HIGH GIRLS BASKETBALL

Coach - Miss Clark
Site - Junior High
Time - 3:30 P.M.

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE
January 4	Northampton (Hawley)	Away
8	Palmer	Home
11	West Springfield	Home
16	Northampton (JFK)	Away
25	Palmer	Away
29	Amherst	Home
February 8	West Springfield	Away
12	Northampton (JFK)	Home
15	Northampton (Hawley)	Home
19	Williston Academy	Away
22	Amherst	Away
27	Williston Academy	Home

JUNIOR HIGH BOYS BASKETBALL

Coach - Mr. Gerald Smith
Site - Junior High School
Time - 3:15 P.M.

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE
December 11	Chicopee	Away
18	Chicopee	Home
21	West Springfield	Home
January 4	East Longmeadow	Home
8	Ludlow	Away
11	Putnam	Away
15	South Hadley	Home
18	Minnechaug	Home
22	Longmeadow	Away
25	Amherst	Away
29	West Springfield	Away
February 1	East Longmeadow	Away
5	Ludlow	Home
8	Putnam	Home
12	South Hadley	Away
15	Minnechaug	Away
19	Longmeadow	Home
22	Amherst	Home

GYMNASTICS

Coach - Miss Greguoli
Site - High School

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
January 5	West Springfield	Home	1:00
9	Longmeadow	Away	6:30
12	Monument Mt.	Home	1:00
16	Hampshire Reg.	Home	6:30
19	Frontier Reg.	Home	1:00
24	East Longmeadow	Away	3:30
26	Minnechaug	Away	1:00
30	Easthampton (White Brook Middle School)	Away	6:00
February 2	Classical	Home	1:00
4	Amherst	Away	7:00
6	Holyoke	Away	6:00
13	Greenfield	Home	6:30
16	State Individuals		P.M.
19	League Meet (Amherst)	Away	
21	District Western Mass. (Minnechaug)	Away	
March 1	State Team Meet (Brockton)	Away	

VARSITY HOCKEY

Coach - Mr. Sapelli

* Home Team

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
December 12	Cathedral	Coliseum	7:00
17	Westfield	"	5:30
19	*Holyoke	Holyoke	6:00
January 2	*Chicopee	Coliseum	7:00
4	*West Springfield	"	5:30
8	Classical	"	7:00
15	*Cathedral	"	8:30
21	West Springfield	"	8:30
22	*Westfield	"	8:30
29	Chicopee	"	7:00
31	*Classical	"	5:30
February 5	Holyoke	"	7:00
8	Cathedral	"	8:30
13	Westfield	"	7:00
20	*Holyoke	"	7:30
22	*West Springfield	"	8:30
25	*Chicopee	"	7:00
28	Classical	"	7:00

P.M.

JV HOCKEY

Coach - Mr. Kinasek

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
December 11	Ludlow	Olympia	3:00
13	Enfield	Olympia	3:00
18	Westfield	Coliseum	2:50
21	Longmeadow	Olympia	4:10
24	Cathedral	Smead	4:00
28	West Springfield	Olympia	4:10
January 2	Classical	Coliseum	2:50
8	Fermi	Coliseum	2:50
10	Longmeadow	Olympia I	3:00
17	Enfield	Enfield	3:10
22	Cathedral	Coliseum	2:50
23	Suffield	Enfield	4:20
30	West Springfield	Olympia II	3:00
31	Ludlow	Blunt	3:00
February 5	Classical	Cyr	4:25
13	Fermi	Enfield	2:40
15	Westfield	Coliseum	6:20

P.M.

WRESTLING

Coach - Mr. Tomkiel
Asst. Coach - Mr. Stone
Site - High School

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
December 12	Granby	Away	7:30
15	Pittsfield & Taconic	Away	1:00
22	Frontier	Home	1:00
January 5	*East Longmeadow	Away	1:00
9	Westfield	Home	8:15
16	Amherst	Away	7:00
19	Tech	Away	1:00
23	West Springfield	Away	7:00
25	Classical	Away	7:30
30	Cathedral	Away	3:00
February 1	Ludlow	Home	8:15
6	Longmeadow	Home	8:15
9	Putnam	Home	1:00

P.M.

Agawam A.A. Begins Basketball Season



CURRAN JONES-Front row, left to right: Tim Bellows, Brendon Blake, Chris Harman, Todd Greene, and Jeff Luttrell. Second row, same order: Ed Crowley, Tom DeNardo, Jim Crowley, and Steve Bilodeau. In back is coach Dan Greene.



GINO'S PACKAGE STORE-Front row, left to right: Cari Brown, Frances Depka, Lisa Frechette, and Melissa Copple. Second row, same order: Kathryn Thornhill, Arlene Allen, Cara Nichols, and Jill Phillips. In back is coach Carol Brown



RUSSO TRUCKING-Front row, left to right: Gina Frasco, Roxann Polak, Beverly Johnson, Susan Stitzinger, and Mary Dupre. Second row, same order: Lisa Chevalier, Betsy O'Keefe, Julie Miodowski, and Lisa Laudato. In back are coaches Lou Miodowski and Jim O'Keefe.



CHRISCOLA FARM EQUIPMENT-Front row, left to right: Mark Lyne, Derek VanTassell, Shawn Sausville, and Chris Kasperek. Second row, same order: Mike Cleavall, Jeff Retzler, Jon DePalma, Dan Vryden, and Tom Cascio. In back is coach Leonard Vantassell.



AGAWAM LIONS CLUB-Front row, left to right: Leigh Whittaker, Christine Bardsley, Lisa Connor, and Maureen Hersey. Second row, same order: Maria Valigo, Chris Phaneuf, and Angela Valego. In back is coach Ed Connor



ST. THERESA'S CHURCH-Front row, left to right: Ricky Brown, Jim Pirro, Jim Laudato, and Thomas Laroche. Second row, same order: David Laudato, Chris Ollari, David Jurkowski, and John Bonavita. In back are coaches Roger Brown and Ralph Myers.



Community Savings Promotes Two

At its annual meeting on November 26th at the Yankee Pedlar Inn, Community Savings Bank approved the promotions of two of its employees.

Mrs. Gloria Hayes of Feeding Hills, personnel and training manager, was elected as an assistant vice president of the bank. She will retain her responsibility as personnel and training manager.

Mrs. Hayes has been with the bank for 1½ years. Prior to that time, she was employed for 16 years by the Savings Bank of Ansonia, Connecticut, where she served as assistant vice president for marketing.

In 1976, Mrs. Hayes received a diploma from the Graduate School of Banking at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. Originally from the Ansonia area, she moved to Springfield in January of 1978 and began working for the bank in May of that year.

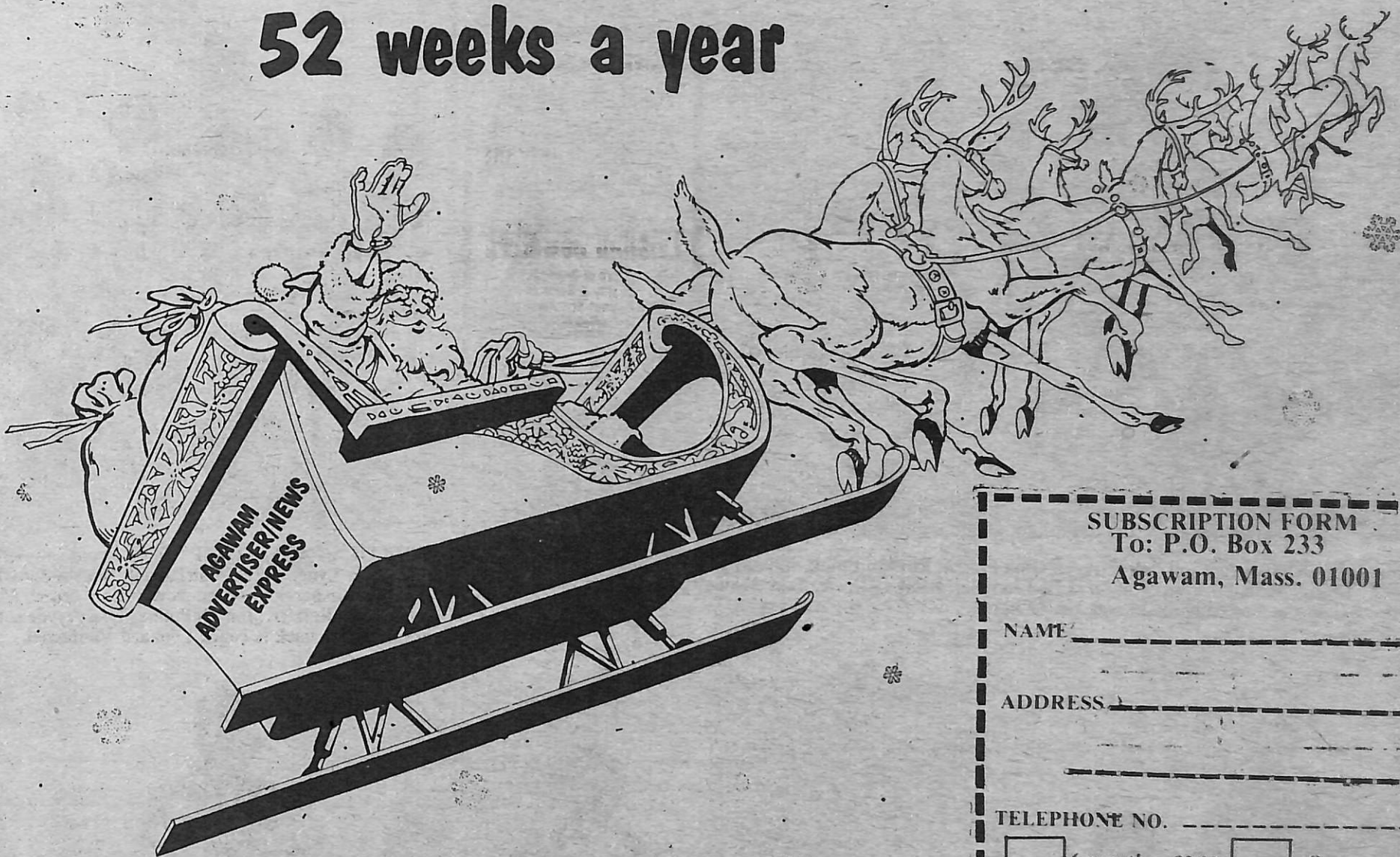
Mrs. Hayes currently resides in Feeding Hills with her husband Robert, who is the owner of Hayes Prosthetics, Inc., located in West Springfield.

The second promotion was that of Thomas Sawyer to assistant vice president in personal loan department. Mr. Sawyer, who graduated from Bangor, Maine, High School and from Springfield College, currently resides in Chicopee with his wife and daughter.

Both promotions were effective immediately, and both will now serve as elected officers of the bank.

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FOR SALE: Quasar video tape recorder; excellent cond.; timer tapes. \$300. Take riding mower in trade. 786-7222.

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Great Gift Ideas: antiques, glass, china, bric-a-brac. Also books, baskets, bottles, & more. Open Tues. thru Sat. 11-5. Pearl's collectibles, 1419 Main St., Agawam. 1/2 mile north of Riverside Park.

FOR SALE: Les Paul-type electric guitar. Black, chrome pickups with case, cord and strap. Mint cond. Call 786-5416.

TIRES ON WHEELS: Two Rambler E78-14; two Chev. G78-14; one Chev. F78-14. Each \$5.00. Small radiators \$5.00. One masonry cemetery urn \$5.00. Call 786-3215.

LAST MINUTE GIFTS, stocking stuffers, stockings, too, at Country Calicos & Crafts, 1186 North St. Ext., Feeding Hills, 786-2913. Open daily & Sun. till 5 p.m., Thurs. till 3 p.m., Fri. 1-9 p.m.

FOR SALE: black vinyl recliner, \$25. Boys one-speed 20 inch bike, \$20. Call 786-1401.

FOR SALE: Hodako 100 dirt bike; runs well, needs little work. \$200 or best offer. Call 789-0053 in Agawam.

FUEL OIL: Call and compare prices. 24-hour burner service. Look Oil Co., Agawam 786-8252.

FOR SALE

Hockey Skates - 1 pr. Hyde All Stars, little boys size 13 - \$7 - 1 pr. Lang Laser boys size 3 - excellent cond. \$25. Harvest Gold Range Hood/Exhaust fan w/light. Used one year. \$30. T.V. Antenna - good condition - \$25 - you take it off our roof. Three wagon wheel light fixtures - wood and brass finish - all have 5 lights. 2 smaller ones - \$20. each. Larger one - \$30. 1 pair triple width, 81" length burnt orange, lined drapes. Ideal for large sliding glass door. \$25. Call 789-1159 after 6 or 786-7747 between 9-5 daily. Ask for Pat.

Pets

REWARD: Lost in Agawam, Main St./River Rd. area; German Shepherd, female; 6 months; Black/tan, bent right ear; ill-on medication. Call 789-0963.

FOUND: Friendly beagle on Main St., Agawam. Owner please call call 789-1234.

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Commission Continues To Mull Rte.57 Suit

By Ric Sardella

Despite warnings from Attorney Harvey Lussier that participating in a suit against the Route 57 extension is out of their jurisdiction, commissioners of the Lower Pioneer Valley Regional Planning Commission tabled a motion calling for a rejection of the suit until late January. Confusion over the commission's legal alternatives was cited as the reason for the tabling.

Agawam officials have warned LPVRPC that entering a suit as a partner with the East Forest Park Civic Association against the \$20 million, 4.5 mile project would precipitate counter measures by the town.

Town Manager Peter Caputo last week said he would recommend that the Town Council establish a special account earmarked for legal fees for the town's law department if LPVRPC files suit against the road project.

State Representative Edward Connelly said he will suggest that the town become a party to the suit along with the State Department of Public Works. The DPW has overruled formal rejections from the LPVRPC and the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority and has given the green light to preliminary design and engineering work on the project.

East Forest Park Civic Association President Richard Greenberg asked the LPVRPC to join anticipated legal action against the DPW by the neighborhood group Monday. Citing that the extension would create traffic problems for the South End Bridge and Sumner Avenue sections of Springfield, Greenberg told the commission that the neighborhood group needs the commission's financial support and clout.

Planning Board member Harold Ellis, the town's representative on the commission, said the commission should abide by the legal advice of its attorney. He quoted an informational pamphlet published by LPVRPC as clearly stating the commission's purpose: "The commission is an advisory body. Its plans, policies, and findings are recommendations only. It has no powers of taxation, eminent domain, ordinance making, or enforcement of its recommendations."

The motion to reject involvement of the LPVRPC in a suit was forwarded by Commissioner Richard Butler of Wilbraham. He pointed to Lussier's ruling that said LPVRPC could not file a suit against Agawam, a commission member.

Last week, Connelly told the *Advertiser/News* that legal action by LPVRPC was establishing a "bad prece-

dent." Connelly has remained adamant throughout the year-long struggle with LPVRPC that public safety remains threatened in Agawam as long as the extension remains unfinished. He said legal action could delay construction and manifest construction costs.

Several commissioners favoring the lawsuit said because LPVRPC is a member of the state Metropolitan Planning Organization, it has the legal right to join the proposed suit. The MPO has full power over all federal highway funds in the state. Because LPVRPC refuses to okay the bypass, the Federal Highway Authority has backed out of its 75% funding commitment. Subsequently, DPW chief Dean Amadon said the Commonwealth will finance the entire project.

South Hadley Commission David Stickel moved that the commission table Butler's motion. He said confusion over LPVRPC's legal position needed addressing at a future date and said the body's executive committee should seek further assistance from Lussier.

On a 16-2 vote, the commission tabled the motion to reject the suit. Chairman Mark Webb of Chicopee, an opponent of the extension's construction, asked Lussier for another legal opinion before LPVRPC's expected January vote.

Contacted for comment on the meeting's events, Connelly observed, "The part about the attorney's legal opinion is obvious. They are not satisfied with it and they will just keep on trying to join the suit. If they do pursue legal action, I will urge the town to join the suit with the state. That would be Agawam's strongest position."

Ellis said after the Northampton-held session that LPVRPC has already had its say on the extension. LPVRPC has demanded that a new environmental impact study be taken by the state on the road's impact on sections of Springfield. Ellis stressed that any objections voiced by opponents on the extension are based on speculation and assumption.

He said, "As far as I am concerned, the town followed all the planning procedures required by the state and federal governments over the past 6 years. Mr. Connelly has made that point to the commission many times before. This commission is a recommending body and not one that should join a special interest group. We're all concerned about increased traffic at the South End Bridge, but the safety of Agawam residents supercedes assumed traffic figures and statistics."



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